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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

***Cicones undata* Guér.-Mén. (Coleoptera: Colydiidae) still common under sycamore bark in south-east London.**—Since I first found this pretty beetle under sycamore bark in Nunhead Cemetery in October 1991 (Jones, 1992, 1993), I have frequently examined dead sycamores killed by the sooty bark disease, an ascomycete fungus *Cryptostroma corticale* Ell. & Ev., and I am happy to report that the beetle continues to thrive in the area. Nunhead Cemetery (TQ3575; VC17, Surrey) has a large number of dead standing sycamore trees and the *Cicones* is without doubt the commonest beetle under their bark. It is often possible to find 10 to 20 specimens within a few minutes of searching on each tree. Specimens have been found on several BENHS field meetings to the cemetery, and on many other occasions during the last 5 years.

The neighbouring Honor Oak Park (One-Tree Hill; TQ3574), also has a considerable growth of young sycamores and *Cicones undata* was plentiful under the bark of cut sycamore logs on 25.viii.95 and 4.xi.95, in company with many thousands of *Enicmus brevicornis* (Mannerh.) (Lathridiidae) crawling about the soot-like fungus.

Another colydiid beetle attached to sycamore, *Synchita separanda* (Reitt.), is much less common than the *Cicones*, but I found several in the park under bark of sycamore logs on 25.viii.95. This beetle seemed less associated with the sooty bark and occurred in areas infected with the coral spot fungus *Nectria cinnabarina* (Tode ex Fr.) Fr. Examination of photographs of this beetle when it was first found in London (Jones, 1987) show that the sooty sycamore log on which it was found also had coral spot, so it may be associated with either of these fungal diseases.

Several specimens of *Diplocoelus fagi* Guér.-Mén. (Biphyllidae) were also present on the sycamore logs in the park on 25.vii.95 and 4.ix.95. The West Kent/Surrey vice-county border passes over Honor Oak Park, but most of the sycamores are on the Surrey side. Of the beetles mentioned above, only *Diplocoelus fagi* occurred in the West Kent part of the park.

Further into West Kent (VC 16), *Cicones undata* also occurred sparingly under bark of dead sycamores in Beckenham Place Park (TQ3870) on 20.ix.95 (in company with a few *Enicmus brevicornis*) and on Blackheath Hill (TQ383766) on 3.x.95. It is obviously still a common and widespread species throughout the area.—RICHARD JONES, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.

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Large tortoiseshell in East Sussex.—I would like to report the presence of the large tortoiseshell, *Nymphalis polychloros* (L.), in East Sussex in late July 1995. It was seen basking on open ground in the parish of Catsfield by Mr D. Goldsmith, a woodsman with an excellent working knowledge of butterflies in the field. The last reported sighting in the parish, and perhaps in the neighbourhood, was in April 1981 when a post-hibernating specimen was photographed basking on an apple tree in my garden (Feltwell, 1981). The current locality is about one mile distant from the former site. The general area is a rich pattern of semi-natural ancient woodland, improved pastures, hedgerows and a few houses. It is incidentally on private land well away from public access, and its reported presence 'in the parish of Catsfield' is deliberate to protect the privacy of the owner and habitat. This current sighting, and those for Essex mentioned in Butterfly Conservation's *Conservation News* (1995; **60**: 16), should be set in the context of the large tortoiseshell being 'thought extinct' in Britain by about 1980 (Wynne *et al.*, 1995).—JOHN FELTWELL, Marlham, Henley's Down, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9BN.

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